

Finding Your “Voice” As A Songwriter

The idea of freeing your personal “voice” that guides the VTS teaching of vocal interpretation extends to freeing your unique “voice” as a songwriter. As you know, your original songs allow you to interpret and reflect on your life experiences, and your perceptions, with harmony, melody and lyrics. But like most creative writers of varying media, songwriters often seek second opinions, honest reactions to their work, even while in process.



We know a second set of eyes, ears and sensibilities can see what we don't and provide valuable feedback. There are a number of elements that make up a successful song, and when all those elements are working together to communicate an idea, a mood, a recognizable situation and emotion, your song can have real impact.

How do you best hone your message, build a story, instill an emotion, communicate your ideas, and catch and keep someone's attention?

Melody: Intimately informed by rhythm, melodies have the power to attract your listeners. Even a complicated, meandering melody can be evocative if there is an inner coherency. Writers can use basic theme and variation and repetition schemes creatively. Keeping this in mind is one of many techniques to help develop and lay out the song's story.

Harmony./Song Form: Today's wide variety of styles have a number of trends in chord progressions and chordal complexity. This aspect of songwriting can be elevated and personalized by a basic or reimported understanding of music theory that opens up more choices for enhancing your melodies, song form and arrangements. Listening to how others with more theory background can be eyeopening and inspiring.

(Please see the Music Theory Lessons free PDF.)

Lyrics: Music goes by the ears so fast, every word of your song counts. Is your image and story really clear and does it communicate your ideas and intent?

The VTS songwriting sessions help your decisions about song forms, lyrical clarity, arrangements, transitions, chord progressions, instrumentation, dynamics, and more.

Use the Contact form on janicejarrett.com or email info@janicejarrett.com for questions and to request a private lesson or a workshop for you, or your group.

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